

The Connecticut
Department
of Correction

P.R.I.D.E.

Our motto: Professionalism, Respect, Integrity, Dignity, Excellence



Remember Our Troops

AT

WORK



Happy Holidays to our DOC Family

During this holiday season it is so very important to celebrate and cherish the importance of family in all we do as an agency. It is our loved ones who form the solid foundation that allows us to give our all as we serve the citizens of our state. And it is the family that is the Department of Correction, the concern, care and PRIDE we have for each other, that make this the best correctional agency in the country. In this season of giving, please make sure you show your appreciation to those who support us in carrying out our mission.

Theresa C. Lantz



From the Commissioner



With the holiday season upon us and our days busier than ever between work and family, I would like to ask each of you to take a moment and remember our fellow staff who are currently around the world, courageously serving our great country. You'll see in this edition of PRIDE at Work, an article about the recent visit my executive staff and I had with Lieutenant Robert Martin, our Employee of the Year, and his family. I will tell you it was an extremely emotional visit for all of us who met with this wonderful family that had to again say goodbye to their husband and father the next day. We went to express our gratitude for his sacrifices, our PRIDE in his service and to offer to him and his loved ones, whatever is necessary. In his absence his wife, teenage daughter and young son are trying to preserve as normal a family life as possible and run their household.

Our Mission

The Department of Correction shall protect the public, protect staff, and provide safe, secure and humane supervision of offenders with opportunities that support successful community reintegration



About and for
correctional
professionals

December 7 -
20, 2003



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A Brief Visit Home from War

Lieutenant Robert Martin recently stood in the comfort of his home's kitchen, calmly detailing the incredible dangers of repeatedly taking supply convoys from Kuwait into hostile areas of Iraq. Cars and even children, purposely sent into the path of his truck, can be the beginning of an attack as his convoy is trapped and forced to a stop. This has been Lt. Martin's life as a member of the National Guard since last April when this veteran of the first gulf war was returned to the region. The Department of Correction's 2003 Employee of the Year, assigned to the Corrigan-Radgowski CI, was at home for an all too brief two week emergency leave, because of surgery his wife Tarishia recently required.



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Marathon Men

Warden Charles Lee praised Recreation Director Alan Kapitske and Armory Officer Stephen Croxford for their participation in recent marathons. Mr. Kapitske ran in the New York marathon on Monday November 2^d. A record number of participants, 34,703, ran in this year's event.

Mr. Kapitske said that he trained throughout the late summer and early fall in anticipation of participating in the event. This is his third marathon. When he reached mile nineteen, a woman holding a sign that said, "There is no wall" gave him a little extra stamina to maintain a steady pace.

Armory Officer Stephen Croxford, who ran in the October 26th marathon in Washington D.C., an event organized by the US Marines to benefit St. Jude's, felt that he did well for his first marathon. Officer Croxford became serious about distance running while he served in Iraq. He is looking forward to the Boston Marathon in April.



(L-R) Armory Officer Stephen Croxford & Recreation Director Alan Kapitske

Pride. *AT* Work

for
December 7 - 20,
2003

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Governor

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month in advance
for calendar events.



Prescription of Care Earns Praise

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Warden Moises Gonzalez of the Manson Youth Institution has recently expressed his gratitude to the medical staff of his facility, based on an unusual letter he received from an inmate. As the Warden said to the medical personnel, "This profession doesn't often lend itself to letters of thanks." But that is what the Warden had received from the inmate who was grateful for the exceptional medical care he had been provided. "They really are an exceptionally caring and concerned medical staff," said the inmate who had come down with mononucleosis. "I just thought they needed some sort of recognition for all that they have done and I'm sure will do to keep the inmates healthy. Job well done." Warden Gonzalez wholeheartedly agrees!



(L-R) Warden Gonzalez, CHN Jody DiDomizio, LPN Ann Krochko and CHNS Belinda Billue

Commissioner, Cont'd

You'll read that Lt. Martin is very grateful for the support his fellow staff continues to provide both him and his family. I would hope that each of us could do the same for those affected in each of your facilities. Since 9/11, more than 100 of our staff have been called to active military duty. That commitment to duty and country, undoubtedly the highest participation for a state department, speaks of the quality and dedication of our staff. Currently, more than 50 remain on active duty. On a facility level, collections can be started of toiletries, toothpaste, juice boxes, and especially baby wipes which according to Lt. Martin are deeply appreciated by those involved in the Iraq war. If you don't have a specific address for the individual, perhaps it can be sent to their home for forwarding. If you don't have an individual service person in mind, state armories across Connecticut are seeking items for care packages through Operation ELF. There is further information on our website at www.doc.state.ct.us by clicking on Operation ELF. In addition, please reach out to the families who've been left behind. Think what the lack of a spouse or loved one during the holidays can mean and the hardship it creates just trying to cope with the average daily requirements of life. Perhaps there are repairs that are needed, car pooling that can be offered, snow to be shoveled. Please make a call and find out or check with your unit administrator. It is all too easy to forget about those who are fighting and dying for our country. It's a few minutes on the nightly news that has become all too common place. But standing across from Lt. Martin in his kitchen, listening to how his convoys have been fired upon and knowing he has since returned to a situation where he daily puts himself in harms way, we as an agency can not forget. Please, remember those valiant members of our correctional family and show the care and commitment during this holiday season that make our family great.

Calendar

January 16



The Annual Fund Raising Breakfast to support the John R. Manson Scholarship Fund will be held at 24 Wolcott Hill Road in Cafe 24 from 9 a.m. - 11 a.m. on Friday, January 16, 2004. A \$20.00 donation (checks only please) can be made payable to:

UCONN Foundation
John R. Manson Scholarship Fund
Please RSVP to Pamela Hightower by January 9, 2004 at 860.692.6856.

January 16

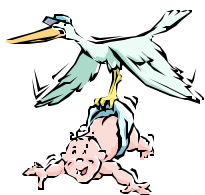


Reminder... Put on your bellbottom jeans and big hair to party with the staff of the Cheshire CI. The party will be held at the Elks Lodge, 87 Webster Street, New Haven CT. For tickets contact: Lt. Freeman or Lt. Barnes at 203.250.2665, C/O Dirmy Mack at 435.5852 or C/O Hudson, C/O Smith or C/O Hasan at 203.250.2690.

Home, Cont'd

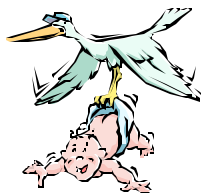
Commissioner Lantz and her executive team, paid the Martin family a visit to offer the agency's support in whatever form it is needed, as she has for all staff who've been called to military duty. Lt. Martin expressed his deep gratitude for the assistance his colleagues at Corrigan-Radgowski have provided his family in his absence. He was also thankful, that the distribution at roll call of his e-mail and address in Kuwait, had produced many messages of support and care packages from DOC staff. Lt. Martin returned home to daughter Truphena, who had received her driver's license and son Robert who had missed the father-son photographs during the football season. Robert Junior eloquently expressed how much the family has missed their father and husband during his absence, in a deeply emotional letter the Lieutenant read for his guests. Through it all, the stress, danger and distance from his family, Lt. Martin says he lives by the words he learned during his CERT training, "Easy Day." He says he wakes each morning with that on his mind and even uses it to console his fellow soldiers. With Thanksgiving just three days away, Lt. Martin's emergency leave came to an end and he returned to the war zone. On his orders, where the date for the end of his call-up should appear, is the word indefinite. We wish him and the other brave men and women of the DOC, who are serving our country, God's speed for a safe and swift return home.

Congrats



Congratulations to Counselor Rob Ravosa of Enfield CI and his wife on the birth of their son, Robert Michael, born on

December 2, 2003. Robert weighed in at 7 lbs. 4 ozs.



The Addiction Services Staff at Enfield CI offer congratulations to Jack Griffin and his wife Holly on the new edition to their family. The

Griffin's delivered their second child on 12/5/03, a bouncing baby girl, Bridget. Bridget weighed in at a whopping 6 lbs. 14 ozs.



Warden Martin is pleased to announce that Brooklyn CI personnel has generously provided a large donation to Operation Fill the Pantry. Counselor Mike Caruso was in charge of collecting the donations for this worthwhile effort.

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Recent MVP recipients:

Antico, James C/O	OCI
Bates, Michael Corr Elec	CRCI
Burke, Timothy Capt	MWCI
Burt, Mister C/O	OCI
Cacavale, Paul C/O	ECI
Caruso, Michael CC	BCI
Champagne, Lorry Sec 1	CRCI
Charette, Joseph Lt	MWCI
Cherpak, Kenneth C/O	ECI
Clancy, William CC	BCI
Clark, Ronald C/O	OCI
Cowell, Scott C/O	ECI
Cox, Maureen OA	GCI
Curran, Melvin C/O	BCC
DiLoreto, Michael C/O	OCI
Durand, Michael C/O	BCI
Espinosa, Benjamin C/O	GCI
Feliciano, Thomas CC	BCI
Gardino, Ronald C/O	BCC
Garth, Scott C/O	OCI
Gilman, Larry C/O	OCI
Hill, David GMO	CRCI
Hoenig, Michael C/O	GCI
Lapointe, Thomas C/O	ECI
Lepaoja, John Lt	BCI
Levitan, Jerry Rec Supvr	CRCI
Matthews, Marvin C/O	CRCI
McCall, Stacey Clk Typist	BCC
McDonald, Jeffrey C/O	BCC
Mercier, Michael C/O	BCI
Minzy, Jacqueline CTO	GCI
Mobley, Willie Capt	BCC
Morales, Jorge C/O	CRCI
Moran, Enrique C/O	ECI
Overbey, Albert C/O	BCC
Perry, Crystal C/O	ECI
Phillips, Michael C/O	OCI
Pisano, Dominick Lt	ECI
Plachy, Warren C/O	ECI
Rawlinitis, Ryan C/O	MWCI
Richardson, Bruce C/O	OCI
Rivera, Edgardo C/O	BCC
Rizzo, Jesse C/O	MWCI

Continued on page 7, MVP's

York CI Employee Recognition Ceremony

York Correctional Institution held their awards ceremony to recognize the employees within the facility who were deserving of acknowledgment for exceptional performances through out the year. Warden Ricks thanked the staff for their commitment to the facility and their outstanding efforts and contributions. The following were the award recipients:

Manager of the Year:	Captain Richard Hartling
Unit of the Year:	Captain Travis Spring C/O James Pollard C/O Paul Hurley
Lieutenant of the Year:	Lt. Maria Martinez
Counselor of the Year:	CC Erin Murphy
CTO of the Year:	CTO Rodney Blais
CFSS of the Year:	CFSS Anthony Pellegrino
1st Shift Officer of the Year:	C/O Judith Bell
2nd Shift Officer of the Year:	C/O Bradford Lake
3rd Shift Officer of the Year:	C/O Elizabeth Wagner
Teacher of the Year:	SST Judith Skovinski
Maintenance Officer of the Year:	GMO Philip Blanck
Secretary of the Year:	Carolyn Colonis-Martin
Nurse of the Year:	RN Susan Sullivan
Officer of the Year:	CN Pat Mioduszewski C/O Jack Mineo

Plaque



State School Teacher Michael Bard and the Vocation Education students at the Cheshire Correctional Institution won a Blue Ribbon (Best in Show) for their plaque honoring our armed forces. The Plaque depicts all four branches of the US military and was displayed at Central Office before it was donated to the Veterans Home and Hospital in Rocky Hill.

Correctional Officer Exam

The State of Connecticut Department of Correction is currently recruiting candidates for Correctional Officers. The Application Form and copies of the exam announcement can be found on the Internet by accessing the DAS Site: <http://www.das.state.ct.us/exam>. The Internet application form takes approximately five minutes to complete and provides immediate confirmation that your application has been submitted. It also allows you to select the time and location of your written test. (If you cannot obtain Internet access to file your application form, paper copies of the Internet application form may be obtained by calling 800.528.7442 ext. 4446. The standard State of Connecticut PLD-1 application will not be accepted for this exam.) All applications must be received on or before December 30, 2003. Applications received after December 30, 2003, incomplete applications and applications received on incorrect forms will not be accepted.

Safety First

Although this time of year lends to a festive atmosphere, staff are reminded that lighted candles are not appropriate in our Facilities or Central Office. To ensure our safety, especially during the holiday season, remember that no open flames are allowed.

Supervised Population on Dec. 17

1 9 8 1 3

On Dec. 17, 2002 the population was 20,339.

From the Front Lines

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Condolences



Warden Gonzalez and the staff of John R. Manson Youth Institution offer their condolences to C/O Richard Desormiers, and his wife Edna, a Personnel Officer at Central Office, upon the passing of Lucille Desormiers.

Around the cell block



New Jersey- Princeton University students played chess with state prison inmates and were beaten by two of the offenders.

South Carolina- With trouble attracting candidates for the first year \$20,000 salary, the state has the highest vacancy rate for correction officers.

Wisconsin- One of 25 states without a prison hospice program, the state is in the process of establishing the program.

New York- Despite the assault rate dropping by half over the past decade, the amount of worker's compensation used by correction officers has grown by 40%.



(L-R) Holding the Department flag in Iraq are: Lt. Steve Pearson of York CI, C/O Mike James of York CI, C/O Mike Butterworth of York CI, Carl Bourne (Former C/O now with the Montville PD) and Bob Desjardin (Former C/O now with the CSP)

The above photo was taken at Camp Ramadi, Iraq and submitted by Lt. Williamson of the Maloney Center for Training and Staff Development. He stated that "All were commenting on how their DOC training has played an active role in their success during their time in Iraq."

Agency Good Neighbors

MacDougall-Walker CI -Counselor Supervisor Linda Gadson and Recreation Supervisor Brian Labrecque were recently invited to address a Criminal Justice class at Springfield College on the availability of opportunities within the Connecticut Department of Correction.

Corrigan-Radgowski CI - Correction Officer George Noyce and Counselor Michele Jones, of the facility Speakout Program, recently traveled to Eastern Connecticut State University in Willimantic and spoke to the students about the DOC's role in the judicial system, the social impact of crime, and what a "typical" day is like for correctional staff.

Donation of Time

Secretary Charon Jennings of Cheshire CI has been out of work since November 2003 due to an extended illness and has exhausted her accrued time. Any NP-3 Bargaining Unit Members wishing to donate days in the form of Vacation or Personal Leave may do so by contacting CTO Wanda Booker, Counselor Laura Jakabauski or Counselor Antonio Cornacchia at 203.250.2794.

Commissioner named to Faith Based Council

Governor John G. Rowland has named Commissioner Theresa C. Lantz as a member of the State of Connecticut's first Faith-Based Initiatives Council. Commissioner Lantz was appointed to the panel at a ceremony in the chapel of Youth Challenge International, a Hartford ministry which assists those with substance abuse issues. The council is designed to involve religious groups to a greater extent in providing social services in the state. It's expected the result will be increased collaboration between faith-based organizations and state departments, including Correction, Education, Children and Families and Labor. Commissioner Lantz, in joining the initiative, has praised the long time involvement of the Faith Based individuals and organizations with the Department of Correction in such roles as volunteers, chaplains and halfway house providers. An Executive Order signed by Governor Rowland opens the way for churches and faith groups to receive state funding for providing services. In all more than 15 individuals will serve on the Council, including seven religious leaders and eight state commissioners.



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MVP's, Cont'd

Rodrequez, Cecelia	Sec 1	GCI
Romero, Taniel	Rec Spec	BCC
Rule, Scott	C/O	OCI
Ruops, Vinnie	Voc Inst	CRCI
Scott, Edward	C/O	ECI
Scott, Tracy	C/O	BCC
Shabenas, Michael	C/O	BCI
Stewart, Eric	Capt	OCI
Terminesi, John	C/O	GCI
Thomas, John	C/O	ECI
Tyrone, Irwin	C/O	OCI
Waite, Thomas	C/O	BCC
Watson, Michael	C/O	MWCI
Wheeler, Steven	GMO	CRCI
Whitley, Scott	C/O	BCC
Wilks, Chapella	Lt	BCC
Zaczynski, Ronald	C/O	ECI
Zimmerman, Michael	Corr Elec	CRCI
LaPorte, William	MS	CRCI

Professional Recognition

Doreen M. Krupp, a Correctional Counselor in Addiction Services at the Hartford CC, became a Certified Substance Abuse Counselor from the Connecticut Certification Board on September 11, 2003 and on October 1, 2003, she became a Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselor from the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health. In addition, Ms. Krupp has recently opened a private practice, Therapeutic Alliance, LLC in Newington, CT, specializing in substance abuse treatment.

New DOC Website

The Connecticut Department of Correction website has a brand new look, new features and a new address. Through the state's Department of Information Technology and with the expertise of agency webmaster Pei Ti Lee, the DOC site has been brought into compliance with the format that will be utilized for all state agencies. Multiple tool bars make navigating the site and finding the desired information easier than ever. Directions to all facilities are now just a click away as are the agency's Vision and Ethics. A new "Forms" link, will take the web surfer to agency forms that are often utilized by the public. The newly consolidated Board of Parole is also now part of the site. The website which had been at www.doc.state.ct.us has now been moved to , www.ct.gov/doc. A link will automatically take those trying to access the old site to the new address. As always, staff suggestions for improvements to the site are always welcome and may be forwarded to the Office of Public Information.